

The deaths have occurred at the following ages:-

Under 1 year 3
Over 1 year 7

THE ANNUAL REPORT (1895)
OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE SHANKLIN
URBAN DISTRICT.

Gentlemen:-

The present report deals with the Urban District of Shanklin as extended towards the end of 1894, I mention this fact as it is necessary to bear it in mind in making comparison between death and birth rates, proportion of infectious diseases to population and such like. For instance in my last annual report I recorded 44 deaths and curiously enough this year I have again to record the same number; but it is obvious that the death rate of 1895 is less than that of 1894 considering that an area of some 500 acres, with a population of over 600 has been added to the district dealt with in my last report.

During 1895 there have occurred within the district 81 births (39 males and 42 females) that is at the rate of 16.2 per 1,000 of population. There have been registered within the same period 44 deaths (25 males and 19 females) which is a death rate of 8.8 per 1,000 of population, which is probably as low as any in the kingdom. The birth rate has therefore increased 3.8 per 1,000 whereas the death rate has decreased 0.7 per 1,000.

1 was due to Suppuration of the middle ear and Meningitis
The deaths have occurred at the following ages:-

	Under 1 year	3
	Over 1 year and under 5 years	7
	5 years " " " 15 "	4
	15 " " " 25 "	1
	25 " " " 65 "	11
	65 " " "	18
	Total	44

During 1896 there have been notified to us the following cases

The causes of the various deaths were as follows:-

7	were due to Bronchitis
6	" " " Diseases of the Heart
5	" " " Inflammation of the Lungs (Pneumonia)
4	" " " Senile Decay
2	" " " Diphtheria
2	" " " Post Diphtheritic Paralysis
2	" " " Cancer
2	" " " Intestinal Obstruction
2	" " " Marasmus
2	" " " Infantile Convulsions
2	" " " Tubercular Meningitis
2	" " " Bright's Disease
1	" " " Diabetes
1	" " " Phthisis
1	" " " Apoplexy
1	" " " Epilepsy

1 was due to Suppuration of the middle ear and Meningitis

1 " " " Influenza

Total

44

Only one death is registered as being caused by Influenza but that does not by any means represent the mortality caused by it, for the twelve deaths (over 27 per cent of the whole death rate) attributed to Bronchitis and Pneumonia were doubtless many of them secondary to Influenza.

During 1895 there have been notified to me the following cases of infectious diseases viz:-

8 cases of Diphtheria

2 " " Scarlet-fever.

Five of the cases of Diphtheria occurred in January and February and were part of the epidemic dealt with in my last report, two of these terminated fatally, one from the direct effects of the disease and the other from post-diphtheritic paralysis. There were no further notifications until July when two cases were notified in one house both of which terminated fatally. There was no further notification until November when one case was reported which ended in recovery.

Water Supply. It is unnecessary for me to allude, as I have done in previous reports, to the danger of your water proving inefficient during the summer and autumn months, for the experience of last summer must I feel sure have convinced the most sceptical on that point. The only question now is how to obtain more water with

as little delay as possible. There seem to have been three schemes before the council viz: (1) Deep boring (2) Sandown water works (3) Purchasing land at Wroxal and conveying the water from there to Shanklin in pipes. I understand that the Council have practically decided upon the latter course. If such is the case there can be no doubt but that such fresh supply will not be available for the coming summer. After the experience of last year it is obvious that some attempt ought to be made to secure a sufficient supply for present needs. It seems to me that there is very good reason for supposing that a valuable trial for water could be made with small cost by driving a level under the land known as Upper Lynch from the upper part of Cowleaze. My reason for suggesting this is a purely geological one viz: that the Cowleaze is composed of gault (an impervious caly) and that the land higher up and overlying it is Upper Greensand through which the water can easily percolate until it reaches the gault which arrests its further progress downwards. The trial would be inexpensive, easily accomplished in a short time and with a natural fall to the reservoirs not many hundred yards distant.

Drainage. Regarding the drainage of your district it is a great satisfaction to me to have witnessed the completion of the new main sewer from the post office to Small Hope. Anyone who watched the unearthing of the old sewer especially down the Hope Road must be driven to the conclusion that the money expended on the work was money exceedingly well spent. Nor can there be any doubt but that the Sibden Road and Hyde sewers now undergoing construction

will be very important and necessary improvements in the sanitary condition of the district.

Scavenging. The revised method of scavenging has proved much more effective and in every way better than the old method. It would be a still further improvement if householders were requested to provide themselves with covered bins for the reception of the refuse and placed in convenient places for the scavengers to gain access to, it would then be possible to remove the refuse weekly instead of fortnightly. The refuse hole is now so frequently awkwardly placed that much of the scavengers time is wasted in getting the material out. May I again point out that it would be a great advantage to have the scavengers carts and also the carts that take up street sweeping provided with some sort of cover to prevent the dust from being blown into the faces of the inhabitants.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

John Cooper

M.O.H. for the

Urban District of Shanklin.

MISS E. M. HARRISON,
LANGLEY PARK HOUSE,
SUTTON, SURREY.

MISS M. M. HARRISON,
LAWRENCE PARK HOUSE,
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